

FUR FARMING.

Accurate information in regard to fur farming operations in Alaska is difficult to obtain and of extremely fragmentary character. In many cases operations are incidental to other work and have been more or less unsuccessful. The data which the Bureau of Fisheries publishes is obtained ~~principally from reports of representatives~~ correspondence with fur farmers and ~~in to a large extent~~ from reports of ~~representatives~~ employees in Alaska. The Bureau has no direct jurisdiction over fur farming operations, other than the enforcement of the law and regulations for the protection of fur-bearing animals in Alaska. A number of islands, however, are available for lease by the Department of Commerce for fox propagation purposes.

Information

George L. Morrison of Hot Springs reports that considerable loss occurred in his operations in the spring of 1918 because of a disastrous flood, in consequence of which only 33 silver pups were raised from the stock of 29 pairs of silvers and 1 pair of crosses retained in 1917.

It was the intention to take ~~25~~ the pelts of 25 of the silvers this season. The foxes are kept in 60 corrals, 30 ^{of which are} 27 by 27 ^{feet}, and 30 ^{are} 6 by 27 ^{feet}. Mr. Morrison leased his ranch in the fall of 1918 ~~with the intent~~ and intended to enter military service.

W. H. Newton, of Healy River, post office Richardson, continued with operations ~~and~~ two pairs of foxes. One litter of six was raised. ~~The~~ ^{retained} He has ⁴ pairs all reared in captivity, and hopes for better success as they are docile and almost domesticated. It was stated that he ^{cooked} feeds fish and vegetables. Mr. Newton considers the ~~interior~~ locality ideal for fur farming as the food is secured with a minimum of effort and ~~fox~~ will stay frozen all winter without spoiling. He also contemplates experimenting with marten.

F. Berry, Homer (via Seldovia), is undertaking fox farming in partnership with Dr. E. F. German of Anchorage. They have one pair of silver-black foxes and expect to increase the stock and also to secure mink.

Sholin Brothers & Company, of Homer, report satisfactory progress in fur farming. Operations were begun in 1915 with 3 pairs of silver-black foxes; there was no increase in 1916, but in 1917 there were two litters of 5 each which were raised successfully. Sixteen pups were successfully reared in 1918. Three pairs of young foxes have been sold ~~for breeding purposes~~ and they retained 12 pairs for breeding purposes. The pens are about 36 by 40 feet, with log houses and dens inside. Cooked fish mixed with corn meal, etc., and rabbits and meat scraps are fed.

James McPherson of Ellamar has blue foxes on Peak and Naked Islands in Prince William Sound. The foxes run wild on the islands ~~and their~~ the exact number is not known. ^{fifty three} In 1918 ~~53~~ pelts were taken ^{in 1918}. The principal food is fish of various kinds.

S Shipments of Furs from Alaska in the Fur Year from
November 16, 1917, to November 15, 1918.

Bears:

Black	1164	\$15.00	\$17,460.00
Brown	35	12.00	420.00
Glacier	35	30.00	1,050.00
Grizzly	42	20.00	840.00
Beaver	109	21.00	2,289.00
Ermine	5,448	1.50	8,172.00

Foxes:

Black	6	150.00	900.00
Blue	706	85.00	60,010.00
Cross	1,651	50.00	82,550.00
Red	11,295	28.00	316,260.00
Silver gray	440	140.00	61,600.00
White	4,125	40.00	165,040.00
Hare, Arctic	38	.10	3.80
Lynx	7,080		

③

as fox

Quote.

Chris

the

Joseph Voelkl, 18 Mile Post, Haines, reported that the foxes he retained ~~had~~ from 1917 had not bred and he had killed all of them. Five of his stock of minks escaped from the pen and he killed the remainder. He states, however, that he expects to build new corrals and obtain new stock.

A. C. Smith, Porcupine, Chilkat Valley, reported that he has 8 pens and a stock of 4 pairs of breeders, 3 silver and 1 cross. Two litters were born in 1918, one of 4 silvers and one of two crosses. He raised 3 of the silvers and 1 cross. *the foxes are kept in 8 pens about 20 x 40 feet.* The feed given is house scraps, bear meat, horse meat, rabbits, owls, eagles, rice, corn meal, rolled oats, and all kinds of green vegetables.

Rufus D. Blakely of Ketchikan has undertaken the raising of muskrats in lakes on Bold Island. *that* The efforts to stock the lakes with suitable plants for food were not very successful, it was thought because of the condition of the soil which will require considerable expense for proper treatment. *the owners* It was stated that ~~they~~ ^{they} contemplate further experiments, possibly with marten and foxes, which require different food.

Inspector E. P. Walker comments as follows on operations ^{ors} in southeastern Alaska:

Insert

Warden M. J. O'Connor, after a tour of inspection of fox farms in the Chilkat valley, expressed the following opinion as to reasons for lack of success:

Quote.
Insert

2 carbons

Reindeer.

The reindeer herds on St. George Island and St. Paul Island have continued to increase very satisfactorily. The surplus males furnish a limited amount of food ~~for the messes~~ which takes the place of fresh beef to a very large extent. It is planned ^{that} at no very distant time ~~in the future that~~ the islands shall be practically self-supporting in the way of fresh meat ~~supply~~ from this and other sources.

On St. Paul Island there were 160 animals, including 40 fawns, in the summer of 1918. Two were killed ~~after that date~~ and three others ~~that were~~ in poor physical condition probably died, leaving ~~the~~ ^{with the herd} ~~herd consisting of~~ a total of 155 ^{at the head} at the close of the calendar year.

On St. George Island there were reported 114 of all sizes at the end of the calendar year. This brings the total up to 269 for both islands, as compared with 154 for 1915. A total of 20 animals was used for food on both islands during 1918.

Since the reindeer subsists during the winter upon ^{one or two} ~~1 or 2~~ species of lichens which are of very slow growth and of limited distribution on the Pribilofs, the Bureau plans to institute an inquiry into the probable maximum size of herds which can be continually maintained on each island. ~~At the present time practically nothing is known on this subject and there seems to be great danger of allowing the herds to increase beyond their food supply which would necessarily cause them to perish.~~

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FISHERIES

WASHINGTON

April 4, 1919.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Memorandum to Mr. Bower:

In accordance with your memorandum of March 18, 1919, there is attached herewith an itemized table showing the condition of the natives' bank accounts at the close of December 31, 1918.

A statement including appropriate data regarding the holdings of Liberty Loan bonds by the natives is being prepared and will be handed to you within a day or so.

A. H. B.

Get name of native
who closed
account in 1918

Copy - double space

Savings Accounts

2 carbons

As in previous years, a number of the natives of the Pribilof Islands have personal funds which are in the custody of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries as trustee. These funds are still on deposit with the Washington Loan and Trust Company, Washington, D. C. and draw interest of 3 per cent per annum, which is calculated on monthly balances. During the year 1918, one native withdrew all funds which were to her credit and the account has therefore been closed.

On January 1, 1918, the balance was \$4,454.98. Interest credited July 1, 1918, amounted to \$60.12 and on December 31, 1918, \$50.70, making a total of \$110.82 for the entire year. No funds were deposited during the year and withdrawals amounted to \$1,391.15, leaving a balance on December 31, 1918, of \$3,174.65, as per itemized table below.

In accordance with the

statement which follows.

Pribilof Islands Natives' Savings Accounts in the Custody of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries, as Trustee, December 31, 1918.

Funds of-	Amount.	Funds of-	Amount.
St. Paul Island:		St. Paul Island-Continued.	
Bourdukofsky, Apollon.....	\$ 95.07	Merculieff, Terenty ^a	\$ 36.44 ✓
Bourdukofsky, Peter.....	57.19	Oustigoff, Peter.....	23.03 ✓
Diakanof, Auxenia (Mrs. C. H. Hope).....	24.25	Pankoff, Agrippina.....	222.05 ✓
Emanoff, Alexey ^a	278.51	Pankoff, Maria M.....	40.64 ✓
Fratiss, Agrifina ^b	87.53	Sedick, Marina.....	.38 ✓
Fratiss, Akalina ^b	516.03	Tetoff, Vikenty M.....	40.63 ✓
Fratiss, Martha ^b	87.53	St. George Island:	
Fratiss, Ouliana ^b	87.53	Galanin, Mary.....	272.22 ✓
Gromoff, Iuliana.....	401.21	Lestenkof, Michael.....	111.27 ✓
Hanson, John.....	18.20	Merculiof, Agrifina.....	116.58 ✓
Kozloff, Parascovia.....	82.91	Merculiof, Joseph.....	22.88 ✓
Krukoff, Iuleta.....	42.63	Merculiof, Polyxenia.....	11.57 ✓
Mandregan, Alexandra M.....	9.64	Philomonof, Mary ^a	111.76 ✓
Melovidov, Alfey.....	40.64	Philomonof, Zoya ^b	110.57 ✓
Melovidov, Anton.....	3.50	Shane, Michael.....	27.95 ✓
Melovidov, Iosef.....	40.64	Zacharof, Emanuel.....	30.08 ✓
Merculieff, Dosofey.....	36.44	Total.....	\$3,174.65
Merculieff, Makary.....	36.44		
Merculieff, Mariamna.....	36.44		
Merculieff, Paul A.....	14.27		

(a) Deceased, estate undivided. (b) Not living on islands in 1918.

Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska. - This island ~~was~~ ~~is~~ under lease to Joseph Ibach of Cordova, ~~Alaska~~. The foxes run wild on the island and the lessee is unable to tell how many there are. In 1918 one hundred blue foxes were killed.

Little Koniugi Island, Shumagin Group. - Andrew Grosvold ^{successfully} continued fox farming operations on this island ~~with excellent success although~~ ~~the~~ ^{Detailed} ~~figures~~ ~~no definite~~ information with regard thereto is available ^{not} ~~at the present~~.

Pearl Island, Chugach Group. - This island was leased from July 1, 1917, to I. D. Nordyke of Seldovia, ~~Alaska~~. ^{was not} ~~The~~ It ~~has~~ stocked with foxes as ~~Mr. Nordyke expected to enter military service, and~~ but he reports that arrangements will be made to begin operations in the season of 1919.

Through the cooperation of the office of the Governor of Alaska greater attention has been given to the ~~fish and game~~ fur-bearing animal work of the Bureau. Twelve

Through a reciprocal arrangement with the Government ^{or of} ~~ment~~ Alaska employees⁵ of this Bureau have been appointed ex officio game wardens, and the Territorial game wardens and special employees for the suppression of the liquor traffic among the Indians have been designated special wardens in the Alaska Service of the Bureau of Fisheries without additional compensation. This increases the Bureau's personnel in Alaska by ~~three~~^{seven} members, as follows:

Patrick Hamilton

Ketchikan

R. A. Martin , game warden at Anchorage, had already been appointed a special fur warden at a nominal salary, to succeed a former ~~and special~~ employee of similar status.

This arrangement was completed in July and assistance has been given chiefly in the matter of reporting violations of the law and regulations, ^{making} and seizures of illegally taken skins.

Motion
Moving Pictures.

In the fall of 1916 the personnel of the Naval Radio Station on St. Paul Island purchased a motion picture projector. The Bureau secured 100,000 feet of films, chiefly of an educational and news-pictorial character, although a few reels were comedies and dramas. Through informal arrangements the employees of the Radio Station furnished the current and operated the machine. This was installed in the building known as the "native shop", and exhibitions were given at regular intervals throughout the fall and winter. It is the expressed opinion of every one concerned that this was ^{probably} the best investment which had ~~probably~~ ever been made from an educational standpoint for the natives.

Under similar
~~Through the same~~ arrangement films were secured the fall of 1917 and exhibitions were given through the ^{following} winter months with the same gratifying results.

In the spring of 1918, the natives of St. Paul Island organized and subscribed funds for the purchase of the machine from the Radio Station employees. Films were provided by the Bureau the following fall in the same manner as before.

The natives of St. George Island organized in the spring of 1918 and subscribed funds for the purchase of a motion picture projector. This was sent from Seattle ⁱⁿ during the summer and put in operation in the fall with films supplied in the same manner as ^{for} to St. Paul Island.

Birds.) *copy*

The enormous numbers of sea birds which nest on the Pribilof Islands form one of the most interesting spectacles to be found there. Some of the species have been estimated in millions.

Many employees have given the subject a share of attention during their residence there and the islands have thus come to be better known in this respect than any similar area in Alaska. Collections have been sent in from time to time and almost without exception they contained some species which attracted unusual attention. Stragglers arrive from all directions and a considerable number of them may be expected every year. The total number of species which breed or are found regularly in migration is only 45. But the number of stragglers has swelled the list to 129. Of these no less than 14 represent the first records of the species having been secured in North America. Five others were originally described from this locality.

Specimens have been collected of all except 6 of these 129 species, and of those collected the U. S. National Museum possesses specimens from the islands of all but one.

The list which follows was originally prepared by Dr. C. W. Richmond of the National Museum for use on the islands in recognizing other desirable species. It has been added to by *the present writer* Dr. G. Dallas Hanna after he completed *his* the study of the last collection he brought *from the islands.* down. Names have been corrected and slight changes made by Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the *Bureau of* Biological Survey.

While it is impracticable at the present time for any of the Pribilof employees to devote ~~any large amount of~~ *great much* time to the collection of

*transcribe all of this
last paragraph, under
part of next page.*

birds, owing to the shortage of assistants, the Bureau ~~does~~ encourages the preservation of any specimens which may appear strange or which possess some unusual interest.

Birds

Considerable study of the birds of the Pribilof Islands has been

During the course of several years at the Pribilof Islands, Dr. G. Dallas Hanna has from time to time devoted considerable study to the enormous numbers of birds in that region. As the result of his observations the following has been recently submitted by Dr. Hanna: